

# Erin



## Election Report in Accordance with s.12(3) of the MEA

### **Background**

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* promotes accessibility for voters and candidates with disabilities and requires that the Clerk prepares a report and makes it available to the public about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that effect electors and candidates with disabilities.

As provided in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the Clerk is responsible for conducting the election and is required to have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities. In preparing and executing the 2022 Municipal Election, the Clerk and Election Team considered accessibility needs when reviewing facilities, providing voter support, training and support for Candidates.

### **Facility**

#### *Accessibility Evaluation*

The Election Team reviewed the accessibility features of the facility used for the Ballot Return Station, training and the Count Centre to ensure that accessibility standards would be met.

Town Hall was evaluated on the following accessibility features of the Ballot Return Station – parking spaces, ramps, doors, automatic doors, accessible washrooms, handrails and lighting. All election activities occurred on the main floor with the exception of a candidate’s room that was available on election night. The lower level was deemed accessible as Town Hall has an elevator to accommodate accessibility needs.

With respect to the announcement of the results, staff conducted a live stream to announce election results so member of the public had the option to watch the results from the comfort of their home.

#### *Election Team Assistance*

During hours of operation, members of the Election Team were available to answer questions, assist with the process and provide any accommodation needs for voters with disabilities.

To enhance practices from 2018, videos were released on how to vote very early in the process, infographics were available online and in person at Town Hall on how to vote and who to call/e-mail for questions, information on the election and who to call on the process etc were provided in two tax slips in April and August of 2022.



## **Voter Support**

### *Voting Method*

The Town's Vote By Mail system provided voters with the ability to vote from the comfort of their own home. Voting from home facilitated the voting process for persons with disabilities who may have mobility restrictions and/or visual impairment through the use of assistive devices set up in their homes.

## **Procedure**

A procedure for assisting voters with the Completion of a Voting Kit was outlined in the Town of Erin Election Procedures. This process ensure that assistance was provided to voters who required assistance when completing their voting kits. Per Town Procedures, Election Officials may assist the Voter by marking the ballot as directed by the Voter, placing the ballot into the secrecy envelope, ensuring that the declaration form and the secrecy envelope was placed into the Return Envelope and insert the entire kit into the ballot box.

## **Accommodations**

The Town's Election Accessibility Plan was posted and amended form 2018 to allow staff to provide home visits for the purpose of assisting voters if deemed necessary by the Clerk. Town Procedures also allowed for other individuals to pick up a residents voter kit as long as consent was provided by the voter via a signed letter and their ID was provided to staff.

## **Candidate Support**

Election information and material was offered both digitally as well as printed formats.

## **Feedback**

The Town welcomes comments and suggestions regarding accessibility and other election-related matters which will be documented to further enhance our practices and to prepare for the next Municipal Election

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Campion", written over a horizontal line.

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